WENDELL POST

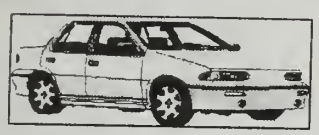
JANUARY - FEBRUARY 1996

VOL. 19 # 5

Drawing by
Chip O'Dowd

50¢ (cheap)

Winter Parking Ban In Effect



The Wendell Select Board reminds residents that a winter parking ban is in effect on all town roads from 10:00 pm to 6:00 am December lst through April lst. Violators may be towed at their own expense.

Good Neighbors Has Come to an End?

Unfortunately, the Good Neighbors Food Share Program has come to a halt. Those who have dedicated time to help out have been faithful; however, there simply are not enough people to keep it going at a minimal level.

To get the program going again, we would need a few volunteers to (at least) handle the Sunday distribution and clean-up. If you're interested, please call me at 544-5450, or call Margo Culley at 544-2020.

Francis Doughty

Notes From the State Forest

WINTER RECREATION has come upon us rapidly. Three snowfalls in one week has put us on a weekend work schedule--either myself, Kevin McQuade of Colrain or Bryant Stewart from Farley will be on daytime duty Saturdays and Sundays. The headquarters building is open. This includes a public toilet and the warming room. Hot water is available if you bring your own chocolate mix and mug.

As always the roads become the trails and use is shared. Snowmobiling continues to be popular and cross-country skiing is increasing. When conditions are right, you can't beat the state forest for price (free), convenience, and trail quality. Although our groomer is showing its age, we keep it going and groom the trails as often as we can. Wendell is a great place for beginners to get their sea legs before trying out larger, more expensive areas.

SLEDDING: When I was a boy (a few years back) we called it sliding. Whichever term you use, it is great sport for all the kids and it happens right out back of the H.Q. Parents, older brothers and sisters are urged to come and take the younger ones for a safe and fun ride, and when it gets too cold you can come inside the warming room to check out our pot belly stove -- a real old, inefficient clunker.

Here's a tip. At the end of this month when the moon is bright, come for some moonlight sliding. I have already done this with my son Lee, and it seemed adventurous, somewhat magical.

We will be running the Bombi over the sliding field -- right now we are undecided whether to pack down the whole area or create a couple of sled runs. We'll experiment.

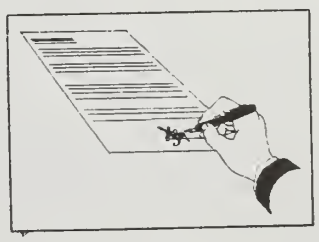
So it's Calling All Kids!
Calling All Kids!

Everyone is welcome on the free trails at Wendell State Forest.

Hal Stowell

★★★★★★★

Nomination Papers for the Annual Elections



The Town Clerk reminds residents that nomination papers for the Annual Election will be available at the end of January. Anyone interested in running for office next May should contact Annie Hartjens at the Wendell Depot Store.

WENDELL POST

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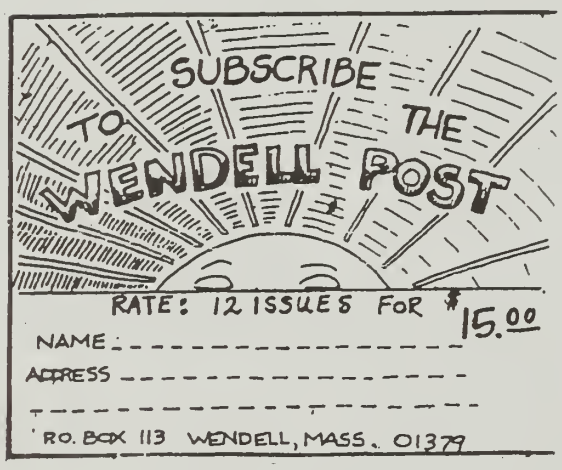
POST ARTICLE INSTRUCTIONS

All articles and letters submitted to the Post for publication need to be signed. If you have a computer, you can help by setting them in our style: 3 3/4" wide, 10 point font size, standard font. Indent three spaces for paragraphs, and do not use an extra space between paragraphs. Please be brief, to share our limited space. If you have questions, call a Post staffer.

Articles: The Post welcomes signed, concise articles about topics of interest to Wendell

Letters: The Post accepts brief letters. Remember, passion doesn't need to be mean.

Artwork: Local artwork lovingly accepted. Must be in shiny black ink.



LETTERS

Thanks

Raeann and Aubin Maynard wish to thank the community for their support during Raeann's illness. She is now recovering at home. Although it will be a while until she reaches full strength again, the concern and expressions of love demonstrated to Raeann and Aubin by friends and neighbors have reinforced them. They both extend to everyone their heartfelt wishes for a Happy Holiday and New Year.

And thanks again

On Oct. 19, 1995 which was interestingly enough the last time I spent time laying out the last Wendell Post, I recieved a phone call after I had gone to bed. It was a police call made directly to my home number by a neighbor. These folks had been traveling up Moromon Hollow Rd. from Millers Falls when the car behind them went off the road. When they got home moments later they called me to tell me of the accident. I got out of bed, called Shelburne Control as I got dressed and asked for assistance. I had no idea what lay ahead. Shelburne Control said they toned out the EMT's and what else would I like? I suggested they send my buddy Officer James Hebert along with the cruiser as I wanted to head right down and see what we had. When I got to the scene I didn't even see the car at first because of its location. I found the car nestled on top of a mound of dirt agaisnt some trees. As I got out to see if anyone was injured or even around I spotted someone laying off to the left side about 30' from the car. As I got closer to this person I realized it was my brother, Ed. My nephew , Jim had his arm around Ed and was talking to him. We could not get any response from Ed. With what first aid training I've had it looked pretty serious to me. I could feel his pulse but it was not a strong one. It would have been really easy to lose control of my emotions at this point but I knew help was on its way. EMT Andy Hamilton was the first to show up. He put oxygen on Ed right away. This helped revive him, Which was great to see. Things moved right along, as EMT Sande Rhodes, the Fire Dept., Officer Hebert and the ambulances all showed up rather quickly. I am very grateful and happy to say at this time everyone is recovered or recovering very well. I think with the quick response time and the people who have given thier time to learn how to handle situations, it was the factor that helped me keep in control. I knew help was on its way, because I had spoken to Shelburne Control. I knew that it was okay for me to be where I desperately felt I needed to be at that time, which was by Eddie's side.

I have long been a spokesperson for voluntarism and I think this is one of the rewards. To see a job well done, to know that you have helped someone, perhaps someone you do not even know or maybe it may be someone you care the world about. I want to personally thank all the people that helped out both at the scene and also in those weeks following the accident. It is truely a blessing to be in a family and a community as great as I feel mine is.

Anne M. Diemand

Dear Wendell Investors:

TO BANK OR NOT TO BANK

We are a colonized people.

Like any good colony, we feed the mother country.

Our mother country is a global network of financial institutions and their corporate clients. They are mega-money managers.

The way these managers allocate money is a limiting factor in the quality of our civilization -- and our lives.

- They limit our access to information in commercial media.
- They define the paramaters of dialogue and debate.
- They have transformed the two-party system into a two-faction system. (Some say we have the best government money can buy.)

Banks, insurance companies, pension plans and taxation funnel our money to the mega-money managers for mega-projects. Some effects of the funnel:

- Small loans, that could improve life where we live it, are hard to get or unavailable.
- The potential of local communities is depleted.
- Our sense of community as an extended family is eroded.
- We might know how our money is doing, but we do not know what it is doing.

We may be able to take a small but significant step. We may be able to create a Wendell-based bank that could not be sold or merged away from its mission to nurture the Wendell community and care for its habitat. We could harvest a double dividend--a percentage for depositors and a stronger, better home community.

Parker Cleveland

In Sympathy

Within the year we've lost what we considered good and honorable men whom we had hopes of knowing and getting to know much longer.

For Mr. Tilly to have asked me when I'd make it to his house with our road enhancement, always brightened my day. I will not stop the effort to police the roads of Wendell in his honor.

Bert's deep appreciation and knowledge of wood will always make me look for the pictures he saw in the wood he delivered to our farmstead. To have his pictures as part of our home is a blessing we will always cherish.

"They just don't come like that anymore," comes to mind with these men's passing. But growing and knowing the people of these valleys and hills discounts that but not the men nor their memory.

With prayer our deepest sympathies go out to all who have recently lost loved ones. We know we are missing them too.

Sincerely,

Dave & Nancy

LETTERS continued pg 4

The Firetruck

The town meeting of November 1 voted against a request for $10,000 to repair the truck. No one present at the meeting knew exactly what the request was for and Everett Ricketts was out of town on vacation. After he returned, I asked him what the money was for he answered that he had not written the request and did not know.

At the time of the meeting, engine # 1 could pump water out adequately, but could not pull water into itself for two reasons; the priming pump which draws water up into the main pump was broken and made a grinding noise if you tried to use it, and the seal around the shaft of the main pump leaked.

After that meeting Ted Lewis called someone in from the Greenfield Fire Dept. to estimate the cost of repairing the pump; that person was not familiar with our particular pump and could not tell us what was needed. Andy Hamilton was there also, and took the time to repair the priming pump by installing a new Lovejoy connection (essentially two interlocking sets of metal fingers with a rubber gasket between them) between the electric priming motor and the priming pump.

Now it should be possible to prime the main pump, and have engine #1 fill its own tank, but it may not be possible because of the leaking shaft in the main pump. There are packings around the main pump shaft that should be adjusted to drip 10 drops a minute during use, for cooling and lubrication, but the shaft may be slightly oval, or scored, and the leak is faster and continues whenever water is in the pump.

Pushing water out, as in fighting fires, is no problem because the 1250 gallon per minute capacity of the pump dwarfs the leak of less than one GPM, but pulling water requires hard suction lines and a perfect seal to make enough vacuum to pull water up from a lower source, like a pond or a dump tank. (Actually the water is pushed by air pressure on the pond, not pulled by the vacuum, but it comes to the same thing.)

Often that limitation is not a problem because the tank truck can feed engine #1 even while engine #1 is pumping water out, but it limits our versatility and flexibility in both mutual aid and fighting our own fires. After fires we usually refill engine #1 from the tank truck or with one of the portable pumps that are carried on the brush truck

Engine #1 has a tank fill valve used to direct water from the pump into the trucks tank both when we are filling the tank from an outside source, and to spill excess supply from the pump back into the tank when the pump is supplying more water than is being used at the fire. (Water that stays too long under pressure in the pump body will overheat and cause damage so we leave the tank fill valve partly open almost all the time the pump is running.) This tank fill valve leads into engine #1's tank somewhere just above the middle of the tank, and when it closes it does not quite seal; therefore the tank drains continuously through the tank fill valve into the pump, and through the pumps leaking packings onto the ground. That means engine #1 goes to most fires about 3/4 full of water. The water that leaks onto the firehouse floor drips into a hazardous materials drain and must be disposed of as hazardous waste although it is only slightly rusty pond water.

Another person is supposed to come from Vermont to look at engine #1 and tell us exactly what it needs and what it will cost to repair. There is a state regulation that says a town's primary attack truck must be less than 20 years old or fire insurance premiums will increase. Engine #1 is a 1976 Ford diesel with only 15,000 miles and 1200 hours of use. It sits still for long periods, thank goodness, and a great deal of its running time has been standing still at fires with the motor turning the pump.

Joshua Heinemann

New Town Accountant

Nancy Riebschlaeger of Locke's Village Road has been appointed as the new Town Accountant for Wendell. Nancy works in systems support for a firm which offers a municipal software accounting package, and thus comes to us with quite a bit of familiarity with the municipal environment. Town departments are encouraged to contact Nancy at 544-2741 if they have questions, ideas or suggestions about Wendell's accounting office.

Newly Appointed Treasurer

Hello,
My name is Gail Bowes. I'm your new Treasurer. I have replaced Judy Wilder, who is now the Assistant Treasurer.

I share an office with Janice Barrett, the General Municipal Assistant.

I'm in the office on Tuesdays and Thursdays, and can be reached at 544-3395.

I look forward to working for the Town of Wendell.

Gail Bowes

Wendell School Committee News

Introduction and personnel note by Chris Ewell, Chair of the Wendell School Committee:

First of all, I want to thank Carolyn Manley for all of her years of hard work and dedication to the Wendell School Committee. And also to Jan Stiefel for jumping in and doing such a fantastic job at town meeting this year. Your efforts were greatly appreciated.

Following the departures of Carolyn and Jan, two new members were appointed over the summer to fill the vacancies---Phil Delorey and Beth McConnell. They both have children at the Swift River School and a strong desire to maintain a high level of education for all of the children at the school.

Christine Heard took a brief leave of absence, but will be rejoining us after her vacation.

I look forward to continue working with Phil and Beth this year on the Wendell School Committee. We are all committed to working hard for the benefit of the school, and also hope to maintain a good relationship with our town officials and to keep the lines of communication open.

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Swift River School Update

The school committee is in the challenging position of trying to ensure that the quality of education at Swift River School is not adversely affected by the tight budgetary constraints the school faces this year. Funds are very limited, despite the fact that the school was very fortunate in receiving a one-time, anomaly fund grant from the state over the summer. In October, the town of New Salem voted an additional assessment to the Swift River School of 14,000 dollars, which has also been extremely helpful.

However, the school has several new, unanticipated expenses to accommodate which are each quite substantial, including the purchase of new oil tanks and their placement in a new, above-ground location. The old tanks had become a potential hazard to the school's water supply. It has also been necessary to install an expensive system to monitor and control the pH of the water in order to prevent corrosion of the pipes. These expenses are unavoidable and must be paid for with a budget that is already very tight.

In October, the Wendell School Committee submitted a warrant to the town of Wendell requesting that 4,755 dollars which was returned to the town from Mahar be redirected to the Swift River School. These funds would have been enormously helpful to the school in its efforts to achieve a level services budget this year, and the school committee regrets that the town narrowly rejected the request (12-11) at the special town meeting on November first.

At its most recent meeting, the joint New Salem/Wendell School Committee voted to reduce its budget by 4,755 dollars.

Due to the financial limitations, important maintenance work at the school will have to be deferred until a future date. Also, it has been necessary to put a freeze on the purchase of new instructional supplies for the remainder of the school year.

Another unfortunate consequence of the current financial situation is that the school cannot afford to purchase new math textbooks for the 5/6 grade classes, resources which are very much needed to replace old, outdated texts currently in use. In response to this problem, the joint New Salem/Wendell School Committee is engaged in fundraising to cover the approximately 2,000 dollars required for this purpose. Over 700 dollars have already been been raised through anonymous donations. Anyone interested in making a donation of any amount, please contact one of the committee members.

We welcome your comments, questions and concerns about any matters related to the school. Please feel free to contact us at the following numbers:

Chris Ewell	544-8126
Phil Delorey	544-2236
Beth McConnell	544-8860

---The Wendell School Committee

The New Salem/Wendell School Committee meetings are generally held on the first Thursday of each month at 7:30 at the Swift River School. They are public meetings.

LETTERS : Focus on the D&B

A New Years Message from a Neighbor

As the perennial outsider , from New Salem, I have always been in awe of how the residents of Wendell have seemingly always banded together to fight for the environment. The nationally backed effort to stop the diversion of Route 2 through the Wendell State Forest saving the Millers River and adjacent woodlands was the sort of thing a community can take pride in.

A journey this fall up the Millers' river had me question; What the hell are you people thinking? The majestic Millers' was indeed spared the ravages of a highway but blessed with a toxic waste dump in its place.

My trip up river was in a small plane flying low and slow from Turners to Orange. As I crossed the power lines, I got my first good view of the D & B dump,

From the road the landfill doesn't look like much. From the air you can readily see the impact it has on the landscape and appreciate the impact it has on the water. Do yourselves a favor and take a scenic airplane ride over the dump from the Orange or Turners airports. It is a scene you will not likely forget.

Is it possibly that no one in Wendell has seen the hundreds of truckloads of building waste from Connecticut, New Jersey, New York and wherever tearing up the local roads to end up in the river you saved from Route 2?. Are you sure that there is no asbestos, no lead, no toxic materials being buried in your backyard? Are you sure? I'm not !

If one person wants to poison his land for the almighty dollar, maybe he has the right. You tell me! I cannot understand how a community so righteous can save a river one day to sit back and watch it be destroyed the next.

The D.E.P. has a file on the landfill. Maybe someone should read it !

I am no geologist but I do understand gravity. The dump will eventually end up in the river. I am not a psychologist either but I understand human nature. Money will sometimes lead people to choose poorly.

It is the responsibility of a community to pay attention to the impact it has on the planet. You can never drop your guard for a moment when the future of our earth is at stake.I say, "pay attention!"

With love for the new year.

Robert Altman
New Salém, January 1, 1996

D&B + ME

Wendell is being asked if we have done the right thing to let a "demolition landfill" be sited hanging over the Millers River?

For sure, there are some events that raise a reasonable doubt about the dump. We know that the public hearing notices for this project were posted quietly in the summer when many people were away, and it was almost too late to have effect on the decision by the time concerned neighbors became alerted to what was transpiring right under their noses. We know that project engineer made a lot of promises at those hearings that did not come true. For instance, he reassured townspeople that hazardous materials would be kept out of the dump through the vigilance of a team of trained sorters operating under a weatherproof roof on an impermeable sorting pad with protective drainage features, and that flammable materials would never accumulate there. He said rubble would be contained in the high-tec "cells" of the dump, that there would be no litter, no smell. Later, this gentleman came afoul of the law because of misrepresentations he made on other projects. Then we lived through the conflagration when immense stock piles of flammables ignited. We know water to fight the stubborn fire spilled over the containment pond fouling Lyons Brook and the Millers River. Other problems have arisen as well, and remedies have been sought. Right now we have the sight of litter strewing down the sides of what has become a huge mountain. For two weeks the dump has smelled strongly and horribly with a pungent mysterious odor.

Officially, we are reassured that there is no problem, other than the possibly the dump is taller than planned. Otherwise, the Board of Health has heard no recent complaints. The Conservation Commission has no complaints. We are told that the Dept. of Environmental Protection is monitoring things.

We have hosted a dump. We have done our share to take a load off a stressed world. We are taking part in an experiment with the new technology of a Hypalon lined land fill. No one can say that we snobbily refused something on the basis of "Not in My Back Yard." Our Town is receiving revenue from the D&B landfill. We now have to hope for the best outcome, that soon the dump "cells" will be filled, and the contents will lie quietly undisturbed forever.

Continued pg 10

Karen Traub, M.Ed., I.A.P.
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=New Column=

SPIN DOCTORS

This page is for articles which are written about news, but contain a personal spin.

Community Development

We live on the edge of a cash funnel that feeds on a trough that runs out of town, out of state and even across the oceans--to wherever the potential for short-term, high and private profit is greatest. The long-term costs are absorbed by the collapse of communities, ruin of bio regions, ill health and early death.

We need to make a living, not a killing.

We can create a community of inter related cooperatives, partnerships and individual enterprises that nurture one another and sustain the environment that nurtures us. By investing in neighbors, we live in a loop that improves life where we live it.

We can heal the split between economic activity and our spiritual sensitivities. We can grow an economy where costs are the love we invest and profits are realized in the quality of our relationships and the character of our community.

P. Cleveland

Education Alternative

JUST ONE STORY
OF COMING TO HOME SCHOOL IN WENDELL

From a land rich with many stories and considerations about home schooling, mine is young and old at the same time. It is true, my decision to home-school was a choice, but only after years of relocating in search of the 'right' school, proceeded and followed by many disappointing experiences and general dissatisfaction with the public school system. Until recently I remained confined, at the mercy of the system, and continued to use it because it was financially affordable when alternative schools were out of reach. Public schooling has provided my parents, myself and my children with a sort of forced education, and sometimes an inhumane degree of insensitivity and uncalled-for humiliation.

Over the years, especially since it's beginning, we have seen public schooling become less cruel and more humane in many ways, still, having a ratio of I teacher to 30 students (in most cases), cannot provide a sense of individuality in learning. I believe individuality in learning deserves to be respected, so that creative intelligence may survive with dignity, rather than hide in confusion and fear of failure.

Seeing the sadness and discomfort my children experienced from very early on in the public school system, (with an empathetic heart) I attempted to home school them while they were still quite young. But coming from a world where educators are educated into being teachers, I found myself believing I was inadequate, merely a single parent who had never completed college. From my own fear, out of a conditioned point of view, I was socially unacceptable as a teacher. Soon after feeling defeated by my own ideas of what it would take to teach my own children, I returned them to the public school system.

After a year of educating my first son in Vermont, we entered into the Massachusetts public school system. We moved through the Boylston, Worcester, Paxton, Petersham, Shutesbury and Amherst systems before our arrival here in Wendell. Now, satisfaction within any school system just isn't easily found, as you too may well know. And so, strange as it may sound, I can say that I have had the good fortune of not owning property, which has always made it somewhat easy to cross over town lines, into what I trusted were reasonable schools zones. Having had to be careful about where I chose to live because of school districts, it was easy to anticipate that by crossing the town line from Shutesbury into the wonderful world of Wendell, my family would soon be denied access to the Shutesbury/Amherst school systems.

In previous years we avoided living in this district because of the limited choice in jr. high and high schools. But, the house we have found, the incredibly kind and caring neighbors we have, and the sense of community we receive here, has let us know we belong. Since our arrival, we have loved living here for reasons so varied that I am sure if you know Wendell, you will also quite easily find in the silence of your heart, similar myriad reasons for loving it, without a word. From the beginning of our stay, my then 14 year old, 9th grader was granted special permission to finish out his term in South Amherst, later to transfer as a 10th grader into Franklin County Tech; while my then 11 year old, also with unusual special permission, completed his 6th year in the Stutesbury Elementary school, to later become a 7th grader at Mahar Regional.

Each of these schools, I believe, has tried to teach my children in the ways schools are accustomed to teaching and helping students learn. It is easy to see, that for many of the students attending public schools, there is a success rate that may seem satisfactory to them, and their families. I am sure sincerity lies there in, for the most part. Yet, over the years I have found also, that it is not so uncommon for children and their families to feel otherwise. There is a sad sense of awakening that occurs when one realizes that their individuality is not being recognized or considered by the world of education, in it's high scale functioning. This realization may bring about feelings of frustration or powerlessness in a student and their family, which can last for years, rather than a sense of intelligence or confident accomplishment, which is essential for the success of ones future education.

After all, we do our best from the moment of birth, to foster creative joy in the lives of our young, when acting in a consciously responsible fashion. So too, as we place these same beings in the hands of a school system, it is equally important that we see the development of respect and dignity for their individuality being maintained. Although in some way it may seem inevitable that we join the masses, we do so trusting that kindness and consideration for what a child's interests and abilities are, will receive encouragement and preservation. Sadly enough though, I have found the opposite to be true in many a school setting. My children, feeling less than respected, with little recognition for the way they as individuals learn, have become familiar with disappointment and frustration, within the ways the school system chooses to teach them, and fails to reach them.

Just as we each have an individual way of expressing ourselves or interacting in our many relationships with the world, just as each one of us draws an individual perspective on any subject in life, we have individual ways of gaining sight of things and learning about them. Experience has taught me, this is where the large scale teaching of the public schools falls short.

As a mother to a child who needed more individualized teaching methods than that which is typically offered in any jr. high school class, I chose to attend school with my son for part of his 7th grade year. He did well while I worked with him, but when I was not there, the manner in which information was given to him, was not sensitive to his learning, therefor it was too difficult for him to receive. The school system itself, not only the teachers of that particular time in my child's life, would have me believe, it is only my sons short coming, and not in part theirs. So, as he continued to fail, (while they did not), he continued to feel worse with each day, as their disappointment was projected onto him. That year I approached his panel of teachers (many times) and eventually the head of the special education department, to ask that a special education plan be put in place for my son. It wasn't until his eighth year in school that the plan was put into place. This had meant testing and labeling him according to their standards, then putting him in a position of placement that was less than average. Of course I was willing to do whatever it took to help him, and through my perseverance, eventually the school had finally come around to putting forth their best effort for him as an individual. Yet in the long run, all efforts included, worked only to prove to my family and myself, that within the institutional style of a large public school setting, individuality gets lost over and over again. It cannot provide an adequate way of helping all children to feel as though they can learn there, even when a special education plan has been arranged, yet the law continues to state that all minors must attend.

The student I have refereed to is a bright and wonderfully creative, high energy person with versatile interests and abilities. There is nothing wrong with him, he is quite capable, yet the public school program simply does not accommodate his style of learning. For even with a special educational plan in place this year, he has received low C's, D's or less. This child is not a disruption in class, and has never been in trouble in school, he just isn't able to receive an education by simply being in the public school system. So now what? Can he get credit for his studies and life experiences outside of school as we know it? Yes, we are finding that home-schooling is in fact a way to allow ones individual style of learning with interest to exist, rather than be forced.

Study is a part of life when we are able to approach it in manners of understanding that are natural to each of us. We are less judgmental when we are less judged. Our interests and our capabilities are honored more when we remove ourselves from situations that cast judgment, even educational ones. Independent studies arise out of opportunities to explore through our freedom to be who we are, rather than who we are expected to be.

I am excited with my children, as they begin exploring new ways to learn, receiving credit in life for living and learning. In my gratitude, I realize this is something I have wished for my whole life. This time, as I am approach home-schooling, I do so with confidence and knowledge of accessible information that devolves my fear as it arises. This time, I have asked for, and am receiving the help of friends, neighbors, and family, along with a new awareness of organizations across the country who have similar thoughts and feelings about education. These are people who my children and I are in contact with, who are providing us with information and support, so that my children are beginning to be educated in compassionate, informative ways, allowing them to live freer happier lives. With college in mind, because it is a concern of ours too, I will lastly mention that it is possible to receive a diploma through certain home-schooling plans, so that one may go on to perfect ones greatest interest at higher levels.

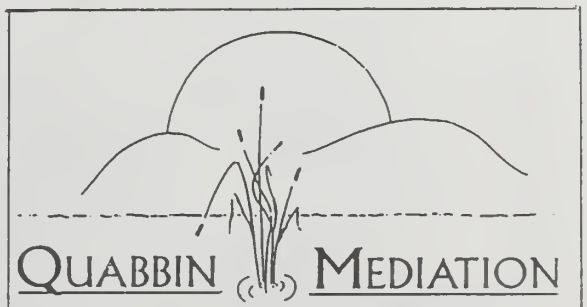
Dona O'Dou

Honored Guests

A POLITICAL NOTE

According to the Quabbin Times, the 1945 visit to Wendell by the Governor, Maurice Tobin, was the first time a Governor visited Wendell in a hundred years. Does anybody know if we are well started on the way to another stretch of good luck like that one?

Bob Ellis



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~Selectboard Minutes~

Wendell Selectboard Meeting October 3, 1995 - Minutes -The meeting convened at 7:00 p.m. Members present were:Anne Zak, Margo Culley, Ted Lewis. Also present: Joe Coll,Reporter for the Athol DAily News, Elden Koch, Reporter for the Greenfield Recorder Regina Curtis, Town Coordinator and Elizabeth Scully, Selectboard Clerk. Minutes were read and approved and warrants were signed. The Selectboard appointed Richard Asmann to the Planning Board at the suggestion of David Wilder and Shirley White, both Planning Board members. The Board voted to designate School Committee members as Special Municipal Employees and also voted to exempt Claire McGinnis from the Conflict of Interest Provision. There will be a Swift River School Committee meeting on Oct. 5, 1995 at 7:30p.m. There was a notice from the Highway Superintendent stating that Locke's Village Road would be closed from the Country Store to Locke Hill Road from 7:00 a.m. until 5:00 p.m. on oct. 5th.so it can be paved. The Massachusetts Selectmen's Association will hold their Fall Workshop on November 14, 1995 in Westborough. The Board received a formal resignation from the Zoning Board of Appeals' Chairman, James Woodward. A public Forum - Mass Commission Against Discriminationsponsored by Stan Rosenberg and the Franklin County Commission is scheduled for 10/19/95 from 7:00p.m. to (9:00p.m. The Board received a letter from MHD regarding the disrepair of the Wendell Depot Bridge. A Public Hearing was held in response to a request from Paul Rich for permission to buy and sell second hand cars on his land on Wickett Pond Road and an application for a Class II license. Mr. Rich said he wants to repair and perhaps sell cars and to do this, he needs repair plates and dealers plates. He said he needs a license from the town before he can get the plates. Michael Wing attended the

Wendell Selectboard Meeting October 10, 1995 - Minutes -The meeting convened at 7:00p.m. All Board members werepresent. Minutes were read and approved and warrants were signed. The Board received a request from Ken Wing to have some cahanges in his license resrtictions. Wendell received a $100,000.grant from EOCD/DEP for aloan betterment program for the repair of failed septic systems.

Anne Zak signed the Housing Authority forms. Senator Rosenberg's office will contact DCPO to get the long awaited deed for the new Wendell Cemetery. Selectboard reviewed the warrants for the Special Town Meeting. The Town Hall bathrooms will be out of commission forthe month of October. They are being made wheelchairaccessible. Those using the Hall will use the Senior Center bathrooms until the work is completed. The meeting adjourned at 8:20p.m. Respectfully submitted Elizabeth Scully Selectboard Clerk

Wendell Selectboard Meeting October 17, 1995 - Minutes - The meeting convened at 7:00p.m. Board members present: Anne Zak and Margo Culley. Ted Lewis and Regina Curtis attended an E-911 meeting. Minutes were read and approved and the warrants were signed. Board members met with Jessie Wetherby to conduct a Tax Classification Hearing. A Pole Hearing for Wendell Depot Road was held. Therewere no abutter complaints so the Hearing forms were signed by the Board and its Clerk and were sent to the Town Clerk. Board members signed the Erving Sewer Project forms. They also signed letters to citizens having more thanthe allowed number of unregistered motor vehicles on their property. The Wendell Police will deliver the letters. There will be a Legislative Forum held at the GreenfieldTown Hall at 4:00p.m. on October 20, 1995. Ted Lewis and Margo Culley plan to attend. The Board interviewed Joanne Carey for the Treasurer position which is now vacant since Judith Wilder resigned.Board members agreed they must advertise before making a decision. The Selectboard met with The Finance Committee todiscuss the warrants on the agenda for the Special Town Meeting to be held on Nov. 1, 1995. The meeting adjourned at 9:40p.m. Respectfully submitted Elizabeth Scully Selectboard Clerk

Wendell Selectboard Meeting October 24, 1995 - Minutes -The meeting convened at 7:00p.m. Selectboard members presentwere: Anne Zak, Margo Culley, Ted Lewis. The minutes were read and approved. Warrants were signed and correspondence reviewed. The School Committee members scheduled to meet with theBoard failed to attend due to a misunderstanding of messages.They were rescheduled for the next Selectboard meeting on Oct. 31, 1995.

The Board agreed to award the oil burner contract to Michael Anderson.

The reopened Public Hearing on Paul Rich's Class II license application was held. Paul Rich attended but there were no abutters present. The Board gave permission for his class II license with some written provisions attached. Gail Bowes was interviewed for the position of Town Treasurer by the Selectboard and the present Treasurer, Judith Wilder.

Wanita Sears was the second applicant for the Treasurer's position and she also was interviewed by the Board and Judith Wilder. No decision was made at this in order for other applicants to come forward after the notice of the job opening was published in the newspaper. Anne Zak signed the Financial Assistance application form for the Clay Grant. The Design Public Hearing to discuss the Wendell Depot Bridge over the Millers River is scheduled for Nov. 2, 1995 at the Orange Town Hall. Anne Zak was to sign the various change forms for the FCRHA for the town hall bathrooms. She will postpone the signing until she can go to the town hall and check the progress of the changes. Board members discussed the police report on the unregistered cars list. Anne Zak reported on the Route 2 meeting she attended.A Task Force was formed, she said, to look at safety issues especially at the Erving Paper Mill. There will be a request for proposals, the input of safety engineers and a request for funds. The meeting adjourned at 9:15 p.m. Respectfully submitted Elizabeth Scully Selectboard Clerk

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©Wendell Selectboard Meeting October 31, 1995 - Minutes -The meeting convened at 7:00 p.m. Members present were: AnneZak, Margo Culley and Ted Lewis. also present were Regina Curtis, Joe Coll and Elden Koch, reporters, and Elizabeth Scully. Minutes were read and approved, warrants were signed©and correspondence was reviewed. Paul Rich attended the meeting to complain once more about his neighbor's barking dogs. He issued a complaint in writing and requested another dog Hearing about Mr. Marceau's©dogs. Joe Diemand reported he had removed 7 unregistered vehicles from the Bower's, Willard's and Smith's properties. Regina Curtis announced the town will receive $8000.for©the playground from the Dare Grant. She also said she had heard from Steve Kulik's office that the Dept of Public Safety has awarded Wendell a grant for Students Awareness of Fire Safety for $2500 for school supplies and educational items as television and VCR sets for Wendell and personnel costs for fire fighters to conduct Fire Safety Days at the School. The Board met with Christine Ewell, of the School Committee. Ms. Ewell spoke of the needs of Swift River©School for the $4000. returned from Mahar's budget.

Board members interviewed Dona O'Dou for the position ofTown Treasurer. Ms. O'Dou decided to withdraw her application after hearing the extent of the requirements for the treasurer and offered to volunteer some of her time to©other town tasks. Members of the Selectboard voted unanimously to appoint©Gail Bowes as the Treasurer of the Town. Selectboard members signed a Class II license (with©certain provisions attached) for Paul Rich. A letter from the Paddocks complaining about their neighbor's littered property was received by the Board. Jack Shay, recently bought the property in question and is in the process of

cleaning it. He attended the meeting to assure©the Board of his good intentions.© The MCAD will hold a Public Forum on Nov. 1, 1995. The DEM ORV Public Hearings will be held at the Notch©Visitor's Center at 7:00p.m. on Nvember 30, 1995.© Jake Graton resigned from the Cultural Council. The Board appointed Phyllis Lawrence to the Cultural©Council in Mr. Graton's place. Franklin County CDC's Annual Meeting is scheduled for©Nov. 15, 1995 at 6:00p.m.©The meeting adjourned at 10:00 p.m.©Respectfully submitted©Elizabeth Scully♪

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©Wendell Selectboard Meeting November 7, 1995 - Minutes -©The meeting convened at 7:00p.m. All members were present.©Warrants were signed. The Board appointed Judith Wilder as Assistant Treasurer©for the Town of Wendell. A Public Hearing to discuss the Automotive Business owned and operated by Michael Wing was held. Interested parties in attendance were: Jan Stiefel, Joanne Aalfs, Carolyn Collins, Hal Flynn, Kenneth Wing, and Jerry Barilla. Things dscussed were: The number of cars; the display of cars; a fence or backdrop; type of license; DEP inspections; ground water; Family business with an informal©agreement; form of license etc.© Board members reviewed a Newsletter from FCCHCPG.© A Nothern Tier Partnership Meeting is scheduled for Nov.©9, 1995 at Bullard Farm in New Salem. Board members perused a letter from the Lottery ©Commission. ©The meeting adjourned at 9:00p.m. ©Respectfully submitted©Elizabeth Scully©Selectboard Clerk ♪

©Wendell Selectboard Meeting November 14, 1995 - Minutes -The meeting convened at 7:00 p.m. Members present were Anne Zak, Margo Culley and Ted Lewis. Also present were Regina Curtis and Elizabeth Scully. The minutes were read and approved, the warrants were signed and the correspondence was©reviewed. A Transportation Bond Meeting (Chapter 90) is scheduled for Nov. 21, 1995 from 9:00 to 11:00 a.m. at the South Deerfield Fire Station. Steve Kulik and Representative Wagner, Vice Chairman of the House Transportation Committee©are expected to attend. The Warwick Highway Department workshop entitled "Highways and Beavers Living Together" will take place at the©Warwick Town Hall on November 21, 1995 at 9:30a.m. The Annual Dinner of Franklin County Home Care will be held at Bricker's Restaurant in Greenfield at 11:00 a.m. on©November 28, 1995. The Board received an activity report from the Orange©Fire Department. They also received two newsletters: one from Franklin County Community Planning Department and another from the©Franklin County Cooperative Inspection Program. November 28, 1995 The Board will meet with Kenneth and Michael Wing from 6:00 to 7:00 p.m. to discuss Michael©Wing's Automotive Business. There will also be a Dog Hearing re Marceau's dogs on©the same evening at 7:30p.m.

Parker Cleveland attended the meeting to request theSelectboard to allow a member of the Policing Steering Committee to remain a member although she has moved from Wendell. The Board informed him that it was out of their hands because one must be a citizen of the town in order to©be elected or appointed to a position for the town. A Pole Hearing for Wendell Depot Road was held at7:30p.m. David Wilder attended requesting his driveway be free of one of the planned poles. The Hearing was approved with an attached written agreement, signed by the Board and the NYNEX representative, stating that plans for that pole©would be changed. The Finance Committee met with the Selectboard to discuss the needed repairs for the fire truck pump. Ted Lewis said he had spoken to a company in Cannish Flats N.H. They will send Dave Woods down to evaluate the problem and make recommendations regarding repairs at a cost of $40.00 per hour. The Finance Committee requested a written report©from the company.©The meeting adjourned at 8:30p.m.©Respectfully submitted©Elizabeth Scully©Selectboard Clerk♪

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©Wendell Selectboard Meeting November 21, 1995 - Minutes -The meeting convened at 7:00p.m. Members present were: AnneZak, Margo Culley and Ted Lewis. The minutes were read andapproved, warrants were signed and correspondence was©reviewed. Senator Stan Rosenberg and Representative Steve Kulik attended the meeting in order to formally present a facsimile of the $5000.00 check for the Wendell Well Fund. They presented the check to Anne Diemand and Ted Lewis because oftheir untiring efforts to raise money for that cause. Doug Turner who now reports for the Greenfield Recorder, took a photo of the presentation for that paper. Members of the Selectboard thanked the Senator and the Represenative and will write a letter of thanks to Judith McDonough who was©instrumental in getting this bill passed. The two representatives responded, to Anne Zak's lament that the FY '96 Pilot payment of only $25,140 to Wendell this year falls far short of the town's needs, with sympathetic agreement. They said the Taxation Committee is forming a PILOT Study Committee which they hope will devise a formula to help all towns in the state rather than to have each town plot a course of its own. They cited Hadley, as an example,which requested ticket taxing from the Mullen Center at U.Mass.; and Amherst that would like to tax the University for©hotel accommodations. The Town of Erving is hosting a Tourism planning meetingon December 11, 1995 at 7:30p.m. Anne Zak expects to attend©with some of the members of the Local Partnership Group. Regina Curtis will attend the EOCD Community Action Statement Information Workshop on December 5, 1995 from 7 to©9:00p.m. Anne Zak, Chairwoman of the Board, signed the $2,500.©Safe Grant contract. Anne Zak said she would like the Town Common and Center Street be the next objective for the EOCD Grant. She also said a fence is needed at the bottom entrance of the Library.There is, she said, a two foot drop from which children on©bikes might fall.©The meeting adjourned at 8:30p.m.©Respectfully submitted©Elizabeth Scully©Selectboard Clerk♪

Cont. pg. 9

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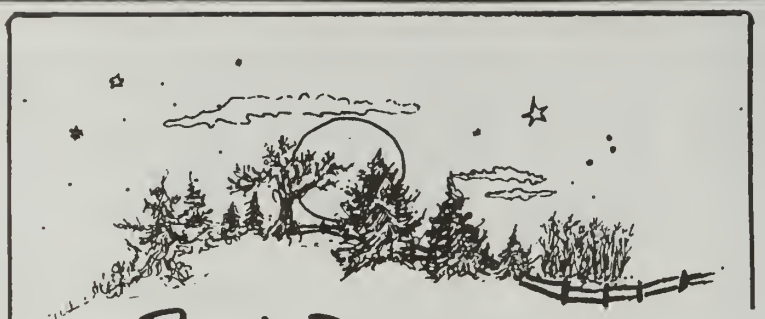

On Friday, November 17, 1995 Bert Damon passed away at home in the arms of his wife, Audrey. Bert was born Elbert H. Damon in Greenfield 72 years ago. He lived all his life in his home on Dry Hill Road in Millers Falls. This was his family's home which was built in 1869 of chestnut.

Bert was a sergeant in the U.S. Marine Corps during World War II. He served in Okinawa in the thick of the fighting. Bob Ellis retold a story that Bert told him, of working on a half-track when he heard an incoming shell. Bert flipped himself into a foxhole just before the explosion which demolished the half-track. He escaped unharmed.

Bert vowed he'd never shoot a gun again after the war and became, according to Anne Zak, something of a peacenik. But last spring a coyote captured a goose right in Bert's yard. Bert got his gun out then and taught his wife how to use it.

After the war Bert returned to his home and operated a sawmill for many years on his property. In recent years Bert did less lumbering and more cordwood. As one of his steady customers in town, Anne commented that he gave a "generous cord." Bert liked to work hard and only recently got a hydraulic splitter and a good dump truck for his cordwood business.

Bob Ellis, Bert's neighbor for a decade, characterized him as "one of the old breed who had high standards and held to them," a person with great respect for nature. Bert's policy was to "high-grade" a lot, cutting out the weak, crooked or diseased trees and leaving the tallest, straightest ones to reproduce. Bob recalled that Bert waited until late March to cut down a maple tree that was in his way so that deer would have the buds to eat when little else was available. Anne said simply that Bert loved the woods.

Recently Bert sold most of his land to the state after months of negotiations. These acres helped to complete a wildlife corridor that extends from Mount Toby through the Ruggles Pond area to the Millers River in Erving.

Bert kept horses and ponies most of his life. Audrey reminisced about Tony, a work horse that loved ice cream. Wherever Bert took Tony, people who knew about his predilection fed him ice cream, smearing it on his lips to watch him lick it off.

Although a Montague resident, Bert was very much a part of Wendell. He spent time at the Wendell Country Store for many years. Anne remembers him sitting at the counter with a cigarette and a long cup of coffee. He was an interesting and intelligent man who liked to discuss issues. Flexible in his ideas, he could change his opinion if a good argument was presented.

I met Bert once at the Country Store. I was with my husband, Eugene Witham, another sawyer and woodcutter. The two men had known each other for many years. Although they'd not seen each other for a long while, their conversation was terse, covering important things like the weather and the cordwood business. Gene introduced me to Bert; I remember noticing the twinkle in his eye.

I like to think that those two fellows are together somewhere now, laughing at our foolishnesses and keeping an eye on the rascals who govern our country. Bob Ellis reported that Bert's hound, Flash, ran howling and barking through the woods the night after Bert died. Wendell folk, too, are missing Bert Damon.

Christine Heard

QUOTE FROM ELBERT H. DAMON

There is a lot of tradition here on this family farm which was purchased over 126 years ago in 1869. I have spend a good part of my life here helping family members, a tradition that has always been, working hard and enjoying the quietness of this place. Our type of livelihood is getting obsolete in today's world, general farming and having many firewood customers and a small sawmill operation. My wife has a woodworking shop where she makes unique bird-houses from our own lumber. She uses knotholes for the entrances which she saves when I cut down the firewood trees. If there is hard work, we are involved. In a few months I will be 70. I continue to work all the time, but find it harder to cope with today's changes.

This quote written by Bert in 1993 was submitted to the Wendell Post by his wife, Audrey Damon.

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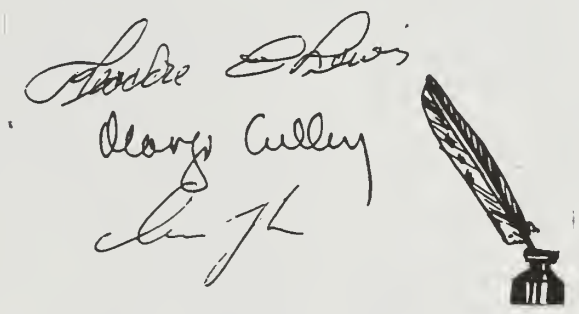
Selectboard min. cont from pg.7

Wendell Selectboard Meeting November 28, 1995 - Minutes -A preliminary meeting regarding the operations of the Michael Wing automotive business began at 6:00p.m. The Selectboard meeting convened at 7:00p.m. Those present were Anne Zak, Margo Culley, Ted Lewis, Regina Curtis, Joe Coll, Doug Turner and Elizabeth Scully.The minutes were read and approved, warrants were signed and correspondence was reviewed. Bob Leet met with the Board to discuss solid waste disposal and septic system grant. A Dog Hearing took place at 7:30p.m. Mr. Marceau did not attend but sent a letter to the Board stating he would meet with the Board but would not meet in the presence of Mr.Paul Rich, the complainant. Mr. Rich did attend and spoke again about Mr. Marceau's dogs. The Board members, not able to conduct a Hearing without Mr. Marceau, recessed until December 5, 1995 at 8:00p.m. A DEP Off Road Vehicles Hearing is scheduled for 7:30p.m. at the Notch Vistor's Ctr in South Amherst. Margo Culley plans to attend. Ted Lewis was issued an auctioneer's license so that he may officiate at the Town's Auction. Board members discussed Fair Labor Standards with Judith Wilder. Board members signed forms allowing the Treasurer to borrow money for the Town. Selctboard signed the Scutari liquor license renewal. A discussion of the progress being made in contacting the owners of more than 2 unregistered, and therefore unlawful, vehicles ensued. The meeting adjourned at 9:00p.m. Respectfully submitted Elizabeth Scully Selectboard Clerk

Regina Curtis and Bob Leet will attend a start-up meeting for the Septic Grants in Leverett on Dec. 6, 1995. The Franklin County Selectmen Association will meet atAndiamo's in Bernardston on Thurs. Dec. 7, 1995 at 7:00p.m. Ted Lewis plans to attend. Board members signed Baybank paperwork relating to a borrowing note for Judith Wilder. Anne Zak and Regina Curtis attended a Pilot Program meeting at New Salem Town Offices. Representative Kulik and Senator Wetmore were also in attendance. Kenneth Wing put in an appearance at the meeting to request a class II license renewal. There will be an Open House at the Shelbourne Control Communication Center at 11:30a.m. on Dec. 8, 1995. The Dog Hearing regarding Mark Marceau's dog wasreconvened at 8:00p.m. Paul Rich, the complainant, was present. Mark Marceau, although notified,

failed to attend.The Board will write to Mr. Marceau and to Michael Wing about their nuisance dogs. Anne Zak and Ted Lewis discussed the Town's Zoning By-Laws. They will invite the Building Inspector for further discussion. The meeting adjourned at 9:00p.m. Respectfully submitted Elizabeth Scully Selectboard Clerk



WENDELL TOWNHALL WELL

To Drink At Last

After three years of fundraising for the Wendell Townhall Well, Ted Lewis and I are very happy to announce that we will have drinkable water at the townhall anytime.

We have raised money in this time to pay for the drilling, hydrofracting, water pumps and tanks and various other related items. Last fall after a meeting Ted and I had to discuss how much more money we needed to raise for the filtration system and how we might do this, on Ted's way home he stopped at the Town Office and recieved a fax from Senator Rosenburg and State Rep. Kulik saying that we were awarded a grant of $5,000. for the Townhall well. When Ted called me I wasn't sure at first if he was nuts because we had even heard of this before then. No, Ted wasn't nuts; Rosenburg and Kulik had come up to Old Home Day, seen the fundraising we had going on, asked about it and applied for a grant for the filtration system for the Townhall well.

A lot of people have helped us raise this money, keep it straight and keep the bills paid. I think its really cool to have an idea, bring it forth and see its completion. And believe me, this grant has given me the boost I needed to start off with our next project. The new town playground! Anybody out there interested? We've got a great committee and even some money to get us on our way.

I want to thank everyone who has helped in every way - brought tickets, donated items, helped with raffles and bake sales...there just seem to be so many ways we made the well dream come true. Thank you.

Anne Diemand and Ted Lewis

Wendell Selectboard Meeting December 5, 1995 - Minutes -The meeting convened at 7:00p.m. Selectboard members present were: Anne Zak and Ted Lewis. Minutes were read and approved, warrants were signed and correspondence was reviewed. In her agenda for the meeting, Regina Curtis announced that Wendell is at 98% for our 911 Database and the Town will go on line with "9-1-1" dispatch on Dec. 6, 1995. She and Ted Lewis will organize distribution of the educational materials over the next few days. A Pole Hearing for Mt. Mineral Road was held at 7:30p.m. Neither the representative from NETC or any abutters attended the Hearing. Board members signed the forms with a written proviso that the poles be moved 1.5 feet back from the stakes already in place. Regina Curtis notified the Board that Wendell, as the lead for a 3-town application, received a $962,000 EOCD Small Cities Grant for the reconstruction of Morse Village Road, the installation of 5 needed dry hydrants in New Salem and Wendell and an Erving sewer project.

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WENDELL ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT PARTNERSHIP HEARS FROM THE PUBLIC

On November 8, 21 Wendell residents had the opportunity to express their views on the economic development planning process currently underway in town. The Wendell Economic Development Partnership convened the public hearing to get feedback on the economic development initiatives they are considering to expand opportunities for local residents.

Participants were asked to rank the initiatives in order of priority. The formation of a Wendell Home-Grown Business Association or Cooperative received the number one ranking. Such a group would facilitate networking, deliver technical assistance, and provide for group ownership/usage of office equipment (fax, copies, mailer labeler, accounting software, etc.).

The second priority of participants in the public forum was the formation of a Wendell arts and crafts marketing cooperative. This cooperative would travel around the region marketing the products of the many Wendell artisans and craftspeople. Third ranked among participants was the creation of a Community-Supported Farm, whereby people would purchase shares at the beginning of the growing season and receive produce throughout the season.

Protected land use was ranked the fourth priority of the group. This initiative is aimed at creating environmentally-friendly and economically-productive usage of protected land, such as guided tours, horseback riding, camping, cross-country ski rentals and races.

The Partnership plans to hold organizational meetings in January to continue work on the most popular initiatives. Meetings will be convened of local residents who are interested in working on the issues of home-based business association/cooperative, arts and crafts marketing cooperative, and community-supported farm. Anyone who is interested in working on one of these issues or in finding out more about the ongoing work of the Wendell Economic Development Partnership should contact Edite Cunha at 413-339-4923

FIRE PERMITS

Burning season for brush piles is Jan. 15 through April 30. Burning hours are 10 am to 4 pm. Forest Wardens are Ted Lewis 544-3320
Anne Diemand 544-6111/544-3806
Everett Ricketts 544-3494
Permits are given out on a daily basis weather permitting.

D&B&ME

continued...

Bottom line is, if there are problems at the D&B Demolition Landfill, it is up to the citizens to be the ones to call it out. If something is seen or smelled, it has to be reported and documented. No official is going to act without evidence. It is up to us to watch.

What we really need to watch out for is the dumping of petro-chemicals. Manufacturer literature for the Hypalon liner states that petro-chemicals dissolve the dump's double liner. Under the liner is a layer of clay, placed there to protect the liner from sharp rocks and water pressure because the liner is subject to puncture and stretch failure. Under the clay is ground water, which rolls along the top of the bedrock there, according to the geological reports. As long as the dump liner remains intact, the known leads, asbestos, etc. within the rubble will theoretically be sealed in.

We were told that our demolition dump was designed using the best known technology. We must now watch out for human error. It is our responsibility to take care of this thing now that we have it. We can do that by watching and reporting any concerns.

Kathy Becker

THANKS, NAE OMA!

This issue continues on without Nae Oma, who has been the volunteer Distribution Manager of "The Wendell Post". Nae Oma left raising concerns about the by-the-seat-of-the pants style of some aspects of this paper. The "staff" is thinking about how this paper operates. We acknowledge a tendency to build timelines around volunteer availability rather than scheduled predictability. We thank Nae Oma for all her valuable contributions to this community paper, and for her challange to become more "professional."

In the meantime, we have plenty of room for volunteers to help in this community paper. All comers welcome. All ideas welcome.

CELEBRATE

WITH OUR YOUNG PEOPLE

When I was in school, we had Social Studies once or twice a week, and most of us labored over "learning" facts and figures, names and dates... all of which seemed tedious and trivial. I forgot most of what I memorized as soon as each test was over. There is a difference between learning facts about a country, and understanding a culture. I still remember the German words to a song a German woman taught me one day while she pushed me on a swing, but I can't remember the words on any of my vocabulary tests in school. My knowledge of other cultures came from personal contact such as the memorable evenings spent with the international baby-sitters my parents found for us when my brothers and I were young. My lasting impressions of Scotland come from the stories our visiting relatives told me... I was fortunate to have the international contacts I had as I was growing up, and I believe that those contacts gave me a richer, more compassionate view of our world than I would have otherwise. There are too few opportunities for our children to experience diversity. We don't forget the things that make the world a more interesting and reasonable place for us to be.

We are fortunate to have Celebrating Diversity again this year for our children at the Swift River School. This program is designed to give our young people an in depth understanding and appreciation of other cultures. I believe Celebrating Diversity is a valuable gift which truly offers the kind of learning experiences our children will never forget.

The whole school will be exploring Puerto Rico from January 26th to March 15th this year. With the help of visiting artists, musicians, storytellers, Boston Children's Museum Culture Kits, and visitors from Puerto Rico, our children will become familiar with the daily lives and values of a contemporary Puerto Rican family. They will get hands-on experience making Puerto Rican influenced crafts, they will learn dances and music, and absorb history through folk tales. Grades 1 through 6 will enjoy a field trip to Shea Theater to see the Enchanted Circle production of Latino Voices. There are plans to have a pen pal exchange with children in Puerto Rico, visits from natives of Puerto Rico who will talk about their lives there, and share recipes, etc. and, if there is enough support, the Celebrating Diversity Committee is expecting to organize an all school community celebration with Puerto Rican food, dance, and live music.

Some of the artists, performers and guest educators involved will include Jose Gonzalez, (musician) Magdelena Gomez of the Enchanted Circle Theater, (actor, storyteller and writer) Erin Williams, (theater storytelling and culture kit explorer) and Kerry Verney Stone and Lydia Grey, (visual arts). These artists will be working closely with the students, teachers and the Celebrating Diversity Committee through out the two months of exploring Puerto Rico.

The members of the Celebrating Diversity Committee are Erin Williams, Joy Brennamen, Robin Driscoll, Maureen Manning, Wendy Edinson, Molly Kaynor, Phyllis Lawerence, Karen Lutsky, Jane Schoenberg, and Tammy West.

Help is needed. Your involvement can be simply from an interest in learning more about this neighboring culture with us, or you may have information you could share.

* Could you offer some general assistance now and then?
* Do you know someone who could help us learn more about Puerto Rico?
* Do you have artifacts you can lend to the school displays?
* Can you help with crafts, or theater productions?

Any amount of help will be greatly appreciated. Leave a message at the school, or call a Celebrating Diversity Committee member for scheduling, or other information about the workshops. In order to continue to receive the funds necessary to have this valuable program in our school, we need community participation.

Celebrating Diversity is a program which is produced in collaboration with the 1794 Meeting House in New Salem. It is funded in part by the Wendell and New Salem Cultural council, the Franklin County Business funds for the arts, The New Salem Academy, and the Mass. Cultural Council - a state agency which receives support from the National Endowment for the Arts.

- Molly Kaynor

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LIBRARY NEWS

Internet at the Library

The Wendell Free Library is now providing access to the Internet for all Wendell residents during regular library hours. The State of Massachusetts has provided us with a 486 computer, a new printer, a modem and an 800 number to the Boston Public Library's computer where we have an internet account. The Town of Wendell at Town Meeting approved $400. to install a dedicated phone line and to pay the basic monthly NYNEX service charge.

This makes us apart of a new state-wide library service called MLIN (Mass. Library and Information network). Its intention is to make information on the internet accessible to all Mass. residents. The internet and its counterpart, the Worked Wide Web (W.W.W.) is a vast and growing international linking of computers. Its allows anyone linked in to access extensive information stored on computers around the globe on virtually any subject. Ones search could be as simple as finding out which area library owns the book one is looking for, to researching government documents t finding out about the latest solar energy designs.

we know this service will be quite popular here in Wendell. To facilitate people learning how to use the system, Kyle Gilman will hold a series of one hour beginner workshops at the library computer every Wed. from 7 to 8 pm, starting on Wed., Jan. 10th. The one hour session is enough to have one feel comfortable using the system on their own. Depending on the desire for more advanced training a second series of Intermediate level workshops will be held, lead by Kyle, Judy Gruppenhoff and others. We ask that anyone interested in using the system please come to a beginner session as we do not have the staff to provide individual training.

Those of us who work at the library are excited about the resources the internet offers. We hope that everyone in town will feel welcome to take full advantage of it.

Rosie Heidkamp, Librarian

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Mahar Honor Roll

Below are listed the Wendell students on the Honor Roll for the lst quarter of the 1995-96 school year at the Ralph C. Mahar Regional School. CONGRATULATIONS!

Middle School:

Brianna Drohen
Brandon Eckert
Matthew Lefebvre
Michelle Roy
Liam Walsh
Tesa Batson
Stephanie Clark
Anne Daniel-Stamell
Adam Feltman
Kelsey Flynn
Mara Gross
Seth Lawrence-Slavas
Leah Tanner
Benjamin Waldron
Ian Roy
Jesse Davis
Corey Eckert
Erin Sears

High School:

Meghan Clark
Caralee Manley
Jay Snyder
Kyle Gilman
Sarah Beth Woodward
Nathan Boland
Donald Clark
Noah Lawrence-Slavas
Rebecca Snyder

Land Transfers

Floyd Borakove to Ward W. Smith and Paula L. King, $115,000.00 9/15/95, 2.003 acres and buildings on Montague Road.

Brenda J. Rotkiewicz, Kenneth G. Rose, John S. Rose, Dennis W. Rose, Robert L. Rose to Mark A. Dearborn and Tammy R. Skerry, $59,000.00 9/12/95, one-fourth acre and buildings on West St.

WENDELL POLICE DEPT. LOG

10-01-95 Noise complaint. New Salem Rd.
10-01-95 Larceny (step ladder and lawn mower) West Rd.
10-01-95 Incident above person found ladder.
10-04-95 Larceny (firewood , etc.) Wendell Depot Rd.
10-04-95 Breaking and Entering, Wendell Country Store.
10-04-95 Disabled MV, Depot Rd.
10-04-95 Susp. Person, Farley Rd.
10-06-95 Safety Hazard, Wendell Depot Rd.
10-07-95 Breaking and Entering, Depot Rd.
10-08-95 Susp. Vehicle, Town garage.
10-11-95 Susp. Person, Lockes Village Rd.
10-15-95 Firearm discharged in front of residense. Montague Rd.
10-16-95 Safety Hazard, tree on wires. New Salem Rd.
10-17-95 Susp. Person, Lockes Village Rd.
10-18-95 Susp. Person, Stone Rd.
10-19-95 One car accident, Mormon Hollow Rd. Two people injured.
10-22-95 Crank calls, West Rd.
10-22-95 Shots fired near house, West St.
10-28-95 Traffic Hazard, Depot Rd.
10-28-95 Noise Complaint, Loud men.
10-30-95 One car accident, no injuries. Jennison Rd.
11-02-95 Diesel Spill, Farley Rd.
11-03-95 Child not returned, Jennison Rd.
11-06-95 Two vehicle accident, Wendell Depot Rd. No injuries.
11-06-95 Motor vehicle violation.
11-07-95 Vandalism, Elm St.
11-07-95 By-law violation, Elm St.
11-07-95 Susp. Person, Wendell Depot Rd.
11-09-95 ADT Alarm sounded, Rush Rd.
11-10-95 Larceny (bicycle), Montague Rd.
11-12-95 Larceny (dog fence cut), Montague Rd.
11-12-95 Accident, unknown location.
11-14-95 Two car accident, no injuries. Stone & Wendell Depot Rd.
11-14-95 One car accident, no injuries. Lockes Village Rd.
11-18-95 Shots fired,Farley Rd.
11-18-95 Harassing phone calls, Kentfield Rd.
11-22-95 Motor vehicle violation, Rt.2/bridge.
12-01-95 Truck parked across roadway, Old Farley Rd.
12-01-95 Accident, Wendell Country Store.
12-02-95 Motor vehicle repossesed, Wickett Pond Rd.
12-02-95 Assault, Davis Rd.
12-05-95 Problem with person, Elm St.
12-08-95 Warrant Arrest, Morse Village Rd.
12-09-95 Vehicle in the middle of the road, accident, no body found. Farley Rd.
12-11-95 Accident on Wendell Depot Rd. Car/ School Bus. Unknown injuries.
12-14-95 School bus stuck in front of WRATS.
12-14-95 Domestic, Morse Village Rd.
12-14-95 Rape, Morse Village Rd.
12-18-95 Domestic, Davis Rd.

These are the calls that were recieved from Shelburne Control. Each officer may receive calls on thier home phone that never are called into Control.

Officer A. Diemand

WENDELL TOTAL ECLIPSE FILM SERIES

The Film Series is at its half-way point. Funded by a Wendell Cultural Council Grant, its aim is to bring entertaining, but unusual films to Wendell over the autumn and winter. We hope attendance will pick up during the cold and snowy months ahead. Films are shown on the first Sunday of the month at 7:00 PM in the Town Hall. Admission is $ 2.00. Popcorn (with butter) and cider are served.

Our last showing was a double feature of short documentaries by two local film makers (Dan Keller of Wendell and Leslie Schwerin of Northampton). A fact-packed interview with Dan preceded the showing. In coming months, we will be changing our format by showing films with a local twist and film-makers will be invited to say a few words beforehand, when possible.

Our next showing will be on January 7th. We plan to show two locally-made films. The first, *Root, Hog, or Die*, is the story of farming in Franklin County. Made by Rawn Fulton of Barnardston, this film documents the trials and tribulations of local farmers struggling to make a living in a fast-changing world. Check our posters for details about the second film.

Subsequent show dates are February 4 and March 3. Films will be announced in local papers, on WRSI and WFCR, posters, and the sandwich board on the Common. See you there!

Tom Webler and Heather Lenz

Ellis '92

Art Exhibit

Bob Ellis of town and Walter Cudnahofsky from Conway are currently exhibiting their art work at the Greenfield Market on Main Street, Greenfield. Bob is showing five works, including some wildlife subjects that have not been exhibited before. Walter, who was a consultant from the Conway School of Design for the Places of the Heart study in Wendell, is showing pencil portraits and color paintings.

This exhibit will run from December 6th through the New Year.

POST OFFICE

ONE THING TO REMEMBER WHEN MAILING PACKAGES IS TO ALWAYS PUT A CARD INSIDE WITH BOTH THE NAMES OF THE SENDER AND RECEIPENT ALONG WITH THEIR ADDRESSES.

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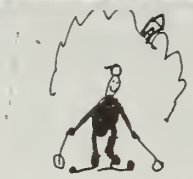
-CHARLES O'DOWD, POSTMASTER-

Neither Rain, Sleet, Snow...



Postmaster Charlie O'Dowd scaled a mountain of snow left from snow-plowing the parking lot in front of the Wendell Center Post Office.

It appears he planted the official flag on this new alp, claiming it for postal patrons across the land.

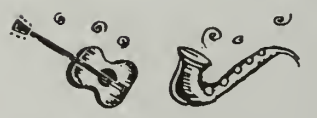
Upcoming Events

January 6

WAILIN DAVE AND THE BLUE DOGS

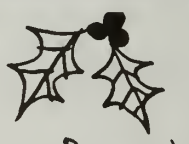
February 3

QUETZAL



- Open Mike at 7:30
- Dessert-O-Rama
- Always a Benefit!
- Sliding Scale Admission

At the Town Hall
Wendell, Massachusetts



Drawn by Tessa White-Diemand

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